

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BUCAR 02104 081417 Z

12

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 PM-07 NSC-10 SS-15 RSC-01 CIAE-00

INR-10 NSAE-00 PA-03 PRS-01 USIA-12 ACDA-19 NIC-01

RSR-01 /106 W

----- 030992

R 080715 Z JUN 73

FM AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5582

INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

USMISSION NATO

DIA

C O N F I D E N T I A L BUCHAREST 2104

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MILI RO UK

SUBJ: BRITISH MILITARY VISIT TO ROMANIA

REF S: STATE 108293 (NOTAL): LONDON 6608

1. WE HAVE LITTLE TO ADD TO LONDON' S REPORTING ON VISIT OF SIR MICHAEL CARVER, CHIEF OF BRITISH GENERAL STAFF, WHICH WAS MADE TO RETURN LAST YEAR' S VISIT OF ROMANIAN CHIEF OF STAFF, COLONEL- GENERAL GHEORGHE ION, TO BRITAIN. BRITISH EMBASSY HERE TELLS US THAT VISIT CONSISTED ENTIRELY OF COURTESY CALLS AND VISITS (INCLUDING USUAL MOUNTAIN REGIMENT AT PREDEAL) WITH A GOOD DEAL OF SIGHTSEEING. ATMOSPHERE WAS VERY FRIENDLY THROUGHOUT. BRITISH SOURCE STATED CATEGORICALLY THAT AT NO TIME WERE SUBSTANTIVE MATTERS (SUCH AS ARMS PURCHASES OR COOPERATION IN MILITARY PRODUCTION) BROUGHT UP.

2. MOST SIGNIFICANT ASPECT OF UK- GOR EAST- WEST MILITARY EXCHANGE VISITS IS THAT THEY TOOK PLACE. BRITISH WERE PLEASED BECAUSE CARVER VISIT WAS FIRST HIGH- RANKING MILITARY VISIT TO AN EASTERN EUROPEAN COUNTRY SINCE
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PAGE 02 BUCAR 02104 081417 Z

WORLD WAR II. ROMANIANS WERE UNDOUBTEDLY EAGER TO

DEMONSTRATE THEIR ABILITY TO ENJOY CORDIAL MILITARY TIES
WITH WEST OUTSIDE OF WARSAW PACT FRAMEWORK. CEAUSESCU
SPECIFICALLY ENDORSED SUCH RELATIONS IN REMARKS TO
MAY 30 MEETING OF ARMY'S POLITICAL DIRECTORATE STAFF
(BUCHAREST 2015), WHICH SIGNIFICANTLY TOOK PLACE DURING
CARVER VISIT.

3. WE WOULD QUESTION, HOWEVER, CHARACTERIZATION OF VISIT
BY LONDON " TIMES" AND GOR EMBASSY LONDON AS " PRIVATE."
SIR MICHAEL VISITED ROMANIA IN RESPONSE TO AN OFFICIAL
INVITATION AND VISIT WAS DESCRIBED AS " OFFICIAL" IN
BRIEF BUT UNAMBIGUOUS ROMANIAN PRESS ACCOUNTS OF VISIT.
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*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a

*** Current Classification *** CONFIDENTIAL

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 08 JUN 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: boyleja
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973BUCHAR02104
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: RR
Errors: n/a
Film Number: n/a
From: BUCHAREST
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19730621/aaaajcqc.tel
Line Count: 79
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 73 STATE 108293 (NOTAL) LONDON 66
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: boyleja
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 08 AUG 2001
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <08-Aug-2001 by kellerpr>; APPROVED <19-Sep-2001 by boyleja>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: <DBA CORRECTED> wfs 980209
Subject: BRITISH MILITARY VISIT TO ROMANIA
TAGS: MILI, RO, UK
To: DIA
EUR
LONDON
MOSCOW
NATO
SECSTATE WASHDC
Type: TE

Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005